

An education to meet the demands of the 21st century



Forward Thinking, High Achieving.

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Missoula County Public Schools – The 21st Century Model of Change

Students in the 21st century need more from public education than ever before.

Global, economic and technological advances are significantly impacting the lives of today's students and families. Missoula County Public Schools – through its 21st Century Initiative – is committed to transforming its schools and curricula to provide students with the skills and knowledge they need to be successful as employees, citizens and leaders in the 21st century.

A New Model of Education

MCPS collaborated with educators, parents, businesses and community members during the 2010-11 school year to research the skills and knowledge that today's students need to succeed in an environment that is continuously influenced by diverse cultures, religions, lifestyles and economies across the globe.

Through these efforts, a new model of education emerged that will more fully engage students and transform learning environments throughout the District.

The new model will provide learning opportunities for students to be more creative, to think critically, to collaborate to problem solve, and to communicate their ideas and actions. Technology will enable the learning process to proceed anytime, anywhere; students will feel that their education is relevant and valuable. The new 21st century model will provide students with the skills to more successfully adapt to the changing financial, technological and political advances that impact their lives.

Vision for 21st Century Teaching and Learning

We communicate; we collaborate; we think critically; and we create.

We are Missoula County Public Schools – educational leaders in a global society – fostering uncompromising excellence and empowering all learners.



Six Elements in the 21st Century Model

MCPS will focus on the integration of six key elements in its plan to transform schools to better prepare students for the 21st century:



Increase Student Engagement

Connect student learning to the “real world” through authentic and innovative experiences.

Transform Learning Environments

Transform the concept of “school” to embrace dynamic, sustainable learning environments.

Support Innovators

Support innovators in employing practices that emphasize authentic learning experiences and increase student engagement.

Personalize Professional Growth

Cultivate and model a culture of dynamic professional learning that embraces continuous change.

Enhance Communications

Advance the use of communication tools that foster transparent conversation.

Collaborate to Make Decisions

Establish an expectation of collaboration to solve problems and make decisions.

A Road Map for Implementation

MCPS is changing teaching practices supported by dynamic curricula review, technology integration, re-purposed facilities, and enhanced community partnerships to bring innovation and flexibility to a traditional 20th century system of education.

The 2011-12 school year marks the launch of the MCPS 21st Century Model. The District has created an 18-month “action map” for each of the six elements. Each year, the District will review its progress for systematic change and identify new goals. The entire master plan for 21st century schools, including action maps, is available online at www.mcpscentury21.org.

Supporting 21st Century Schools

All stakeholders are encouraged to be involved in the implementation of the MCPS 21st Century Model. Please consider:

- **Becoming a volunteer.** Share your special skills.
- **Staying in touch.** Register to receive our electronic newsletter and other updates.

Go to www.mcps.k12.mt.us



What is 21st century?

Here is a sampling of current MCPS projects that fit the framework of the 21st Century Model. You might have heard of some of these exciting developments:

■ **Graduation Matters**

Missoula. A school-community partnership working to ensure every student graduates and to reduce the drop-out rate.

■ **International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.**

This program combines rigorous coursework with an emphasis on global issues and learning through community/public service.

■ **Health Science Academy at Big Sky High School.**

Students can participate in a four-year program that merges rigorous math and science coursework with “real world” experience in various industries.

■ **Health Clinic at Lowell**

School. The first in Montana – a school-based health clinic that will serve students and families.

■ **Missoula Public Library Big Sky and Seeley Lake Branches.**

School/public library sharing of resources that serve students by day and the public by night.

■ **A collaborative approach to curriculum development.**

Through an online wiki and other web-based tools, all educators are able to participate in the annual revision of curricula.

■ **Growing Technology.**

Building reserve funds will support re-wiring of schools to integrate 21st century technologies and improve internet speeds.